

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch. Do you want to speak to your amendment?

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, in watching this Legislature grapple over financial problems of the State of Nebraska, particularly as it relates to higher education, I think it is only proper that we reconsider our actions before the final moment and that is to add another monument to the campus of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. I am not just talking about the bricks and mortars. That cost we take out of cigarette tax which is always easy to come by, particularly for those of us who contribute heavily to that sin tax. I oftentimes think we ought to take the sin tax and put it in the general fund. I think we would slow down the capital construction of this state a little bit but this is not the point I want to make. The point I want to make is that once you get this in place supposedly you are going to support it by the great states of Montana, Wyoming, South and North Dakota and the great state of Nebraska, and I submit to you with declining enrollments as we see them in the public schools and future declining enrollments as you are going to see them in the post-secondary institutions and particularly those who are the degree granting institutions, the four year kind and more, we will not need a vet college. The State of Nebraska has eight hundred and some DVMs presently, four hundred and some who are practicing, four hundred and some others who have left the profession and I submit to you when you spend seven or eight years pursuing that degree and then you leave it because it is not a meaningful endeavor nor can you make a living, when there is no need for us to pursue this endeavor any further. A number of us had lunch with the Senators and others from Wisconsin. That state several years ago went on record to appropriate up to 28 million dollars for the purpose of building a veterinarian college. They came here looking at our position. They left here saying you are behind us. We almost feel as though we must go ahead because there are too many ifs in your proposal. They also said to us we will give you twenty seats in that vet college at Wisconsin. And I submit to you when you look at what Iowa is willing to do, what Minnesota is willing to do, when you look at Kansas and other colleges we presently reciprocate with over vet students, I submit to you we have the seats available based upon future needs as studied by HEW and the Arthur Little report. Of course, there are those who look at the Arthur Little report and say, well, that is prejudiced because supposedly it came out of DVM magazine. The only shortage you have in veterinarian medicine today is in terms of toxicologists and pathologists. If this state